2008-04559/

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For Immediate Release
2007AE0025-000478
April 20, 2007

Ministry of Advanced Education
Office of the Premier

KWANTLEN TRADES CAMPUS TO TRAIN SKILLED WORKERS

CLOVERDALE – Premier Gordon Campbell officially opened the new Kwantlen University College Trades and Technology Centre today, which will provide leading-edge trades and technology training for more than 900 students in an environmentally friendly building.

"The new Cloverdale campus will be a valuable source of the skilled workers we need to meet the demands of B.C.'s booming economy and the rapid growth in this region of our province," said Campbell. "By investing in this campus, we are providing the kind of education and skills training that will ensure our province remains competitive and productive."

The Province invested $39.2 million in the construction of the new $42.3-million, 17,000-square-metre building. Programs being offered at the new centre will include adult basic education, automotive, electrical, carpentry and building trades, welding, millwright, farrier, appliance repair, and mechanical and engineering technology. The campus will also house the public safety communications 9-1-1 program which has been moved from the Newton campus to the Cloverdale facility.

"Having access to the latest, most advanced equipment, like Kwantlen's welding program offers, provides students with a competitive advantage when they enter the workforce," Advanced Education Minister Murray Coell said. "We're continuing to increase opportunities for British Columbians to pursue high quality post-secondary education by expanding facilities, programs and spaces at public institutions."

The new campus incorporates Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design – or LEED – principles, which establishes recognized standards for green buildings, and a portion of the building's electrical energy will be supplied by renewable resources

"Kwantlen University College's new Trades and Technology Centre in Cloverdale is very innovative," said Skip Triplett, president of Kwantlen. "We developed this new high-tech campus to house a new high-tech curriculum that will prepare students for full careers by offering pathways from foundation training to apprenticeships and full baccalaureate degrees."

Since 2001, government has funded more $68 million in capital projects and more than 1,000 new student seats at all four Kwantlen University College campuses.

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